

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1306

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016

MPLAD Funds

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Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for consideration to enhance annual allocation under MPLAD scheme is pending with the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the usefulness of MPLADS in the villages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and any third party monitoring is being conducted for the same;
- (d) whether the Government releases the fund of MPLAD to the concerned department in time; and
- (e) if not, the steps being taken for speedy release of funds in the future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA]

(a): A joint representation of MPs was received in this Ministry through Prime Minister's Office to enhance annual allocation of MPLADS funds. Earlier, in similar requests, Department of Expenditure had communicated that they were not in favour of increasing the allocation. The joint representation of MPs has been referred to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for reconsideration.

(b) & (c): The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their Constituencies. Right from inception of the Scheme, durable assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. are being created.

The Ministry undertakes third party physical monitoring of the MPLADS works in selected districts through independent agencies from time to time. In the last phase, 100 districts were covered in the physical monitoring wherein the independent monitoring agency [Agricultural Finance Corporation Limited (AFC)] took a sample of total 5615 works costing Rs.412 crore. AFC in its report concluded that about 82% works were in the Rural Areas and 18% works were in the Urban/Semi Urban areas. The share of rural and urban area in aggregate cost was 78% and 22% respectively.

It was also reported that the scheme has created various durable community assets which have impacted the social, cultural and economic life of the local community in one way or the other.

(d) & (e): Release of funds under the MPLADS at the Central Government level as well as at the District level is governed by the provisions contained in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

The first installment of MPLADS funds is released subject to submission of provisional Utilisation Certificate (UC) of the previous year for at least 80% of expenditure of the first instalment of the previous year. The second installment is released on submission of Monthly Progress Report (MPR) reflecting unsanctioned balance of less than Rs.100 lakh and unspent balance of less than Rs.250 lakh with the District Authority along with the Utilisation Certificate (UC) of the previous financial year and Audit Certificate (AC) of the year prior to the previous year. As soon as the requisite documents and certifications are received, the funds are released by the Central Government.

Government through the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation continuously emphasizes on expeditious utilisation of funds and timely submission of required documents and certifications for further release of funds.
